| Application Number | 10/826893 | RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER |
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| Filing Date | April 16, 2004 | |
| First Named Inventor | Tarbutton, Kent S. | SEP-0 2 2005 |
| Art Unit | 3616 | |
| Examiner Name | Toan C. To | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 56847US007 | |
| s Submission: 3 | * · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| Attorney for Applicant: Harold C. Knecht III | | |
| | Filing Date First Named Inventor Art Unit Examiner Name Attorney Docket Number s Submission: | Filing Date April 16, 2004 First Named Inventor Art Unit Examiner Name Toan C. To Attorney Docket Number Submission: |

| ENCLOSURES (check all that apply) | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Fee Transmittal Form Issue Fee Transmittal Amendment Transmittal | ☐ Petition | | Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences | |
| Amendment/Reply After Final Affidavits/Declaration(s) | Petition to Convert a Provisional Application | | Appeal Communication to Technology Center (Appeal Notice, Brief, Raply Brief) | |
| ☐ Extension of Time Request | ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation | | Proprietary Information | |
| Express Abandonment Request | Change of Correspondence Address | | Status Letter | |
| Information Disclosure Statement | Terminal Disclaimer | | Other Enclosures: | |
| Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Response to Missing Parts | Request for Refund | | | |
| under 37 CFR § 1.52 or 1.53 Response to Missing Parts under 35 USC 371 in US Designated/ Elected Office (DO/EO/US) | Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal | | | |
| ☐ Drawings | After Allowance Communication to Technology Center | | | |
| REMARKS: | | | | |
| | | | | |

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RECEIVED **CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

Patent

32692 Customer Number

SEP 0 2 2005

Case No.: 56847US007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:

TARBUTTON, KENT S.

Application No.:

10/826893

Group Art Unit:

3616

Filed:

April 16, 2004

Examiner:

Toan C. To

Title:

METHOD OF HYDROFORMING ARTICLES AND THE ARTICLES FORMED

THEREBY

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT-ELECTION OF SPECIES

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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d by: Harold C. Knecht, III

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 4, 2005, Applicants provisionally elect Species II: represented by figures 3-4.

It is submitted that claims 17-27, 29-31, 35 and 36 are all generic claims, and claim 28 reads on Species II. In addition, claims 32 and 34 read on Species I and claims 32 and 33 read on Species III.

The current requirement for election of species is traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested. In requiring a restriction of claims 17 to 36 to one of three proposed species, the Examiner fails to cite any section of the MPEP or the CFR or provide any other grounds in support of the conclusion that the restriction of the noted species is proper and permitted. MPEP §803 expressly requires an Examiner to provide reasons to support any conclusion related to a proposed restriction, including that such restriction requirement is proper. It is requested that the Examiner expressly provide the reasons supporting the proposed restriction requirement. The

Application No.: 10/826893

Case No.: 56847US007

failure to provide any such reason effectively prevents the Applicants from being able to decide whether the restriction requirement can be properly traversed.

In addition, it is submitted that the claims now pending before the Examiner are in condition for allowance. A notification of allowability is solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that a telephone interview would be beneficial in resolving any of the issues in this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold C. Knecht III, Reg. No.: 35,576

Telephone No.: 651-575-1056

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel 3M Innovative Properties Company

2/05

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